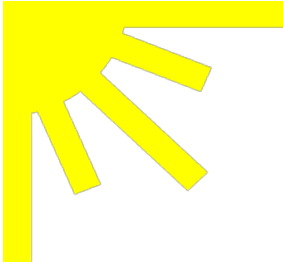


Ebenezer
Today, Tomorrow and Beyond
Monthly Newsletter for Ebenezer United Methodist Church
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February Issue 2019



Carl's Corner....

Dear Church Family,

There are two major administrative tasks for every United Methodist minister. The first is the Charge Conference that happens in the fall. The second is the EZRA report or the end of the year report to the Annual Conference. There are many questions and statistics to answer and record. Each church must report stats about: Professing members, membership ethnicity, membership gender, attendance at church, Sunday School, short term study groups, mission engagement, assets and debts of the church, church expenditures to include benevolent giving, cost for the clergy and staff, program and operating expenses and debt payments (if any) and building improvements. All together there are 55 different line items we must report. I count myself blessed because I have people who have and are helping me with this report. Special thanks goes to: Peggy Payne, Buster Dyer and Doug Usherwood from the Atlanta church, Marianne Johnson, Mike Strubhar and Nanette Johnson at the Ebenezer church, and Dee Wilson and Myrna Cremeens at the Hopedale church.

Each year I pay particular attention to the total membership number and the average attendance number. Every church in the Annual Conference has a gap between the two. I am always looking for ways to close that gap. **"I can count on you"** sums up for me the meaning of membership. From a Pastor's point of view-a member of the congregation is someone I can count on. I count on them to pray, to be present, to use their gifts, to serve and to be a faithful witness.

From a member's point of view-it is only right that they too can say to the clergy, **"I can count on you, Pastor."** I can count on you to pray for me, to be present in all the times of my life, to use whatever gifts God has given you, to serve God and the congregation and to be a faithful witness to our congregation and community.

It is also right that within the congregation that we can count on each other to pray, be present, use our gifts and opportunities to serve and to good witnesses of our church family. As we start 2019 may we all be able to be counted on.

Blessings,

Pastor Carl

Ebenezer Church Council

The next meeting for Ebenezer Church Council is **Monday, February 11th**, at 7 p.m. During this time, there will be a special Charge Conference recognizing Debbie Johnston into the ministry. Church Council is open to all who would like to attend.

Special Session of General Conference

From February 23-26, the General Conference of the United Methodist Church will meet in St. Louis, Missouri to discuss, debate and hopefully, decide where our Global church will stand on the issue of human sexuality.

Feb 23- Day of Prayer and preparation

Feb 24- Organization and Administration matters

Feb 25- Delegates from around the world will consider, discuss and debate.

Feb 26-Plenary session with final vote.

Please be in prayer during this historic time in the life of our church.

2018 a Year in Review at Ebenezer....

1 New Member
0 Baptisms
0 Death
3 Wedding

Ebenezer's current membership is 70 members

Average Weekly Attendance 30

Deepak Holkar served as interim Pastor from January 1 – June 30, 2018

Pastor Carl Johnston was appointed to our effective July 1, 2018.

"Prairie Winds Parish" created. When a charge is made up of 3 or more churches, like Atlanta-Ebenezer-Hopedale, the conference recommends you be recognized as a Parish.

The Quilting Divas completed **3** quilts for Cunningham Children's Home year.

To support our **local missions**, Ebenezer donated the processing for 2 hogs to be divided between the **McLean and Stanford food pantries**. David Dawson provided the hogs.

\$550 was donated to the **Midwest Mission Distribution Center** for Tornado Totes and other disaster needs.

\$600 was given to **Our Conference, Our Kids Campaign**.

\$400 was given to **U.S. Disaster Fund** for Hurricanes Florence & Michael

\$100 was given to **Preachers Aid Society Benefit Fund** to honor Pastor Carl

Ladies Aid gave the Church \$450 to cover **Five-Star missions projects**

\$600 was given to help support **Missionaries** Larry & Jane Kies and the good work that they are doing at Africa University in Zimbabwe.

Conference Apportionments of \$7,188.00 were paid in full.

Ebenezer's Weekly Attendance

December 2018

Date	Adults	Children
2	25	0
9	31	1
16	37	1
23	39	0
30	28	0

January 2019

Date	Adults	Children
6	27	0
13	0	0
16	12	0
20	0	0
27	24	0

February Preaching Plan

Feb. 3

Scripture Reading: John 16:13-14
Sermon title: "Who's speaking?"
Communion

Feb. 10

Scripture Reading: Hebrews 11:6
Sermon title: "What will I believe?"

Feb. 17

Scripture Reading: Luke 9:23-24
Sermon title: "What will I do?"

Feb. 24

Scripture Reading: Luke 6:46-49
Sermon title: "Will I obey?"Hao



Ebenezer's Country Breakfast

It's time for the Ebenezer United Methodist Church annual country breakfast on Saturday, February 23, from 7 – 11 a.m. We will be serving a full breakfast. Items available will include: pancakes, sausage, bacon, scrambled eggs, biscuits & gravy, hash brown potatoes, fruit and more. Bring your family and meet your friends and neighbors for a time of fellowship and good food. This is a great time to catch up on the news and what's happenings in your area. A freewill offering will be accepted.

Upcoming Events in the area.....



Funks Grove Maple Sirup

It's almost that time when you will see buckets and tubing hanging on the sugar maple trees in Funks Grove. Each year towards the end of February or the first few weeks in March, sap will be collected from the sugar maples, then boiled down and bottled.

To purchase Funks Grove Pure Maple Sirup stop by the sugar house located on Old Route 66 just a ¼ mile south of the Funks Grove intersection.



Happy Valentine's Day

